

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 ACDA-05 /071 W

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R 061133Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2529

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CONFIDENTIAL MOGADISCIO 0025

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PFOR ET SO

SUBJECT: SIAD ON SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

1. PRESIDENT SIAD STATED JAN. 6 IN RESPONSE MY
QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE FELT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO DEAL
WITH A "SOCIALIST" ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT THAT ETHIOPIANS
ARE "DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND". SOMALIA'S POSITION ON
THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WAS CLEAR, AS WAS ITS POLICY
OF NON-INTERVENTION IN ETHIOPIAN AFFAIRS, SOMALIA IS
LETTING ETHIOPIA WORK OUT ITS OWN PROBLEMS, AND HAS
NO RPT NO INTENTION OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEM.
ETHIOPIANS, HOWEVER, SAY ONE THING AND DO ANOTHER AND
TAKE BACK THEIR
EARLIER WORDS. HE HAD TOLD EMPEROR
AT OAU SUMMIT LAST JUNE THAT OGADEN WAS OF NO RPT
N NO INTRINSIC VALUE AND WOULD SIMPLY REPRESENT DRAIN OF
MONEY AND BLOOD TO ETHIOPIA. SIAD STILL FELT THAT
WAY BUT HE HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE ANY
PROGRESS WITH ETHIOPIANS OVER PAST 5 YEARS.

2. SIAD THEN CLAIMED THAT ETHIOPIAN FORCES IN OGADEN
WERE FIRING ON SOMALI WATER TRUCKS WHICH CROSS DE FACTO
BORDER TO BRING WATER TO DESTITUTE NOMADS. SEVERAL
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PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED AND SEVERAL TRUCKS CONFISCATED.

GSDR HAD PROPOSED TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THEY FORM JOINT TEAMS TO ASSIST NOMADS IN BORDER AREAS BUT HAD HAD NO REPEAT NO RESPONSE.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW REAL FACTS.
SOMALIS MAY BE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF DROUGHT SITUATION TO ASSERT THEIR INTEREST IN OGADEN, BUT GSDR IS MAKING ALL OUT EFFORT TO ASSIST THOSE SUFFERING FROM DROUGHT.

4. IF IT IS TRUE THAT GSDR HAS PROPOSED JOINT ACTION, IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT THIS WOULD BE WORTH ENCOURAGING ON HUMANITARIAN AND EVEN POLITICAL GROUNDS.

WE WILL SEE
IF WE CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS HERE, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN RELIABLE INFORMATION. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE HEARING WHATEVER EMBASSY ADDIS CAN LEARN. IF IN FACT SOMALIS HAVE PROPOSED JOINT ACTION, PERHAPS ETHIOPIANS COULD BE ENCOURAGED AT LEAST TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH SOMALI AUTHORITIES.

KIRK

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